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ballet

A simple way to do 'The Nutcracker'

Jose Mateo doesn't need glitz, glamour or a big stage to make holiday magic {page 20}

awards

Seven Globe nods for the 16th president

This year's Golden Globes are Lincoln-centered Who else was nominated {page 14}

Pats face huge test against 'Niners {page 29}

'The Hobbit': An unexpected controversy

Peter Jackson's prequel to 'The Lord of the Rings' franchise was fraught with drama even before the camera started rolling Andy Serkis gets personal Cast defends its work {pages 10-13}

Off-duty cop crashes into home garage

BOSTON. An off-duty Boston police officer crashed his car into the garage of a Hyde Park home early Thursday morning.

Officers were flagged down by the officer, who crashed just before 3 a.m. at 1545 Hyde Park Ave., according to police. The officer wasn't identified. The officer's Ford Explorer had crashed into the garage, causing some damage. Police said the officer had serious injuries to his head, face, neck and chest. He was taken to a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening. No charges had been filed at press time. METRO

FILE PHOTO

▶ Mattapan suspect Dwayne Moore

Mattapan trial jury starts again

BOSTON. Another juror was dismissed Thursday in the retrial of the man accused of killing four people in Mattapan in 2010.

The juror was dismissed for reasons unrelated to the case and an alternate juror was appointed by the judge to fill the spot, according to the Suffolk district attorney's office. That means the jury panel had to restart its deliberations. A sick out-of-state relative forced the juror to leave, according to the Globe. It was the second time the jury had to restart deliberations. METRO

Pants off for subway ride

BOSTON. The pants are coming off, which means the annual No Pants Subway Ride is on.

The annual worldwide gag will take place on the MBTA in the afternoon of Jan. 13, according to organizers. Details are on the event's Facebook page. Pantless subway riding became an annual event 12 years ago when New York's Improv Everywhere organized the bare-bottom ride. METRO

Bulger turns to appeals court to remove judge

◗ Alleged mobster arguing trial judge should recuse himself ◗ This is second attempt to get a new judge

Alleged mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger has yet to go to trial, but he is already appealing to the federal appeals court about issues in his legal proceedings.

Bulger's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., filed a request on Tuesday to the First Circuit Court of Appeals that it force Judge Richard Stearns to remove himself as the judge in Bulger's upcoming trial.

Bulger, 83, has argued through Carney that Stearns should not oversee his trial because he will be called as a witness to back up the claim that Bulger was granted immunity.

Stearns worked in the United States Attorney's Office during the time Bulger was committing his alleged crimes.

"It will be a jury question to determine why the chiefs of the Criminal Division did not seek to prosecute [Bulger] during this period. The fact that they did not is consistent with — and corroborative of — a grant of immunity, and will be highly material at this trial," Carney wrote in his request.

Quoted

"It is critical that this trial be free from even the slightest hint of a government cover-up."

J.W. CARNEY JR., BULGER'S LAWYER

In his rejection earlier this year of Carney's request to remove himself from the trial, Stearns said that he is "confident that no reasonable person could doubt my impartiality." He also called the action to have him removed as the trial judge an injection of "a diversionary issue."

Carney, in his plea to the appeals court, used the history of government corruption in the case as an argument to have Stearns removed.

"Given the widely held view of rampant government corruption relating to this case, the public interest requires the unquestioned appearance of a trial before a judge of unchallenged impartiality," he wrote.

Carney has said Bulger will testify that former U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Jeremiah O'Sullivan gave him immunity. O'Sullivan died in 2009.

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Been here before

Tuesday's filing was not the first or second time Carney has sought to remove Judge Richard Stearns from overseeing Bulger's trial.

Stearns has rejected motions to recuse himself twice before.

He argued that because Stearns was previously an assistant U.S. attorney, he would have worked with those now prosecuting the case and potential witnesses. But in a July ruling, Stearns rejected the arguments.

"Because at no time during my service as an AUSA did I participate in or have any knowledge of any case or investigation in which the defendant was a subject or target, I have nothing of a relevant or material nature to offer with regard to his case or any claim of immunity," Stearns wrote in the ruling.

Gift. Delivery

▶ Boxes of toys were unloaded, including stuffed animals and board games.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Toy donations pour in for Home for Little Wanderers

Truckloads of toys were delivered Thursday to the new toy room at the Home for Little Wanderers as part of the agency's Big Wishes Gift Drive. Employees and other people associated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, and Bernie & Phyl's Furniture helped collect and deliver the toys to the Dedham toy room for children staying at the home. Able to trace its roots back to 1799 and the founding of an orphanage, the Home for Little Wanderers is the oldest child-welfare agency in the nation and one of New England's largest. METRO

By the numbers

$50M

A very lucky pair of coworkers won Wednesday night's Powerball jackpot with a ticket they bought at a Lexington Shell station. Lottery officials said the winning ticket was bought at the Shell station at 915 Waltham St. Co-workers Rosa DeLeon, of Arlington, and Reginald LeBlanc, of Lexington, chose the lump sum option of about $33 million before taxes. It is the second jackpot-winning Powerball ticket sold in the Bay State since the game was introduced here in 2010. METRO

Today's local tweet

"BREAKING: Bringing a Pit Bull for a ride on the #mbta may be a bad idea. Especially when it's continuously barking."

@ANDREWAPPLEGATE, WHOSE MORNING T RIDE WENT TO THE DOGS

MACY'S DECLARES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

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Officials focus on violence prevention at public hearing

City leaders praised the implementation of violence prevention programs and strategies that have reduced crime in the city, but said that the city and state needs to do a better job of helping "emotionally disturbed individuals."

Thursday's hearing of the City Council's Post Audit and Oversight committee included updates on various areas related to violence prevention including domestic violence, reentry efforts for prisoners, youth employment and gang activity in schools.

Police Commissioner Ed Davis, one of the city officials to offer testimony during the hearing, said that over the last five to six years, the most violent crimes have declined as well as the number of arrests.

"The fact we're decreasing arrests at the same time we are decreasing crime is a testament to a strategy that is fair and works," Davis said. Part of the strategy he pointed to is the police department's Safe Street teams, a form of community policing that takes officers out of their cruisers and on walking or other beats. He said he plans to add two additional teams next year, bringing the total to 15.

Both Davis and Barbara Ferrer, the city's public health director, said that one area that can be improved is the handling of those with mental health issues.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METR

▶ Davis

Quoted

"The fact we're decreasing arrests at the same time we are decreasing crime is a testament to a strategy that is fair and works."
DAVIS

"Given the number of folks that are arrested that have underlying mental health or substance abuse issues, we don't have an adequate number of appropriate options," Ferrer said.

Davis said other states do a better job at handling the issue than Massachusetts and that more resources are needed.

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Administration. Changes

▶ Patrick speaks about his Cabinet changes Thursday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Patrick gives Cabinet a makeover

Gov. Deval Patrick announced on Thursday changes to his Cabinet staff for his final two years in office. Patrick announced the resignations of Administration and Finance Secretary Jay Gonzalez, Education Secretary Paul Reville, Public Safety Secretary MaryBeth Heffernan and Health and Human Services Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, who has come under fire recently for the state drug lab crisis and the oversight of compounding pharmacies. Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral will replace Heffernan, and Glen Shor will replace Gonzalez. METRO/SHNS

In the news

Woman stuck in car for hours after crash

YARMOUTH. A 27-year-old woman was trapped in her crashed car for possibly nine hours overnight before rescue crews were able to free her.

Megan Lynn Haley of West Yarmouth was the driver of the 2006 Honda Odyssey that crashed in a wooded area off of a Yarmouth roadway, police said in a statement. She was the only person inside the car.

Crews were called to the scene just before 7 a.m. and were able to free her. She was flown to a Boston hospital with serious injuries.

Fire officials said the crash may have occurred at about 10 p.m., according to the Cape Cod Times. Police are investigating. METRO

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News in brief

McAfee 'victim' kin say he should be questioned

GETTY IMAGES

ORLANDO, FLA. The family of an American murdered in Belize expressed shock and frustration that U.S. software pioneer John McAfee, who has been named a person of interest in the killing, can stay freely in Miami Beach while the Belize authorities want to question him.

"I'm shocked by this. ... He's running around footloose and fancy free in Miami. How in the world can that be?" William Keeney, the stepfather of murder victim Gregory Faull, said to Reuters on Thursday.

McAfee, 67, went into hiding after Faull was shot in November in Belize. He made his way secretly to Guatemala, but the authorities there deported him on Wednesday night to the United States.

Police in Belize want to question McAfee as a "person of interest" in Faull's killing, but authorities there say he is not a prime suspect. **REUTERS**

GOP losing fiscal cliff argument, polls show

GETTY IMAGES

▶ John Boehner holds his weekly news briefing yesterday at the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, D.C.

Negotiations continued on Thursday on the "fiscal cliff," with Republicans at a growing public-opinion disadvantage and approval ratings for President Barack Obama rising to levels not seen since the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Senior Democratic Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota said on MSNBC that he thought Obama and House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner were edging closer to a deal.

He added that he hoped something will be announced next week to avert the steep tax hikes and budget cuts set for the start of 2013.

"I believe that they will have a framework agreement," Conrad said. "I believe they'll have it early next week. And I believe it will secure the votes in both the Senate and the House. We may miss some on the wings, but I think the center will hold."

Republican Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, in a Fox Business News interview Wednesday evening, disagreed with Conrad's assessment.

"I started pretty optimistic about this that we could get this done well before the holidays, but I don't feel that way anymore," Brady said.

"It seems to me a decision's been made, perhaps by the White House, already to take us off this fiscal cliff."

Polls support Obama's plan

- Polling shows strong support for Obama's position. According to a Wall Street Journal/NBC survey released late Wednesday, three-quarters of Americans say they would accept raising taxes on the wealthy to avoid the cliff.

61%
Of Republicans say they would OK tax increases on high earners

Conservative Republican Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina said the economy is already damaged by the uncertainty caused by the deadlock.

"We can't fix it Christmas Eve and expect it all to bounce back in January," he said Thursday on CBS.

Polling shows strong support for Obama's position. According to a Wall Street Journal/NBC survey, three-quarters of Americans say they would accept raising taxes on the wealthy to avoid the cliff. **REUTERS**

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Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A NORTH KOREA

When it comes to jolly round fellows who send gifts flying through the December night, Santa has nothing on Kim Jong-un. The young leader of North Korea must be feeling awfully nice, although he certainly made the naughty list this week. I can just imagine his meeting with St. Nick. "So, what would like you for Christmas, Mr. Supreme Leader?" "How about a multistage, liquid-fueled rocket capable of carrying a nuclear ... um, I mean a satellite ... to the other side of the globe?"

The successful launch of that Unha 3 rocket is arguably the greatest technological feat the world has ever seen from Kim's secretive nation. Although those of us who live in highly advanced countries may think satellite launches are about as exciting as reruns of Frosty the Snowman, pulling one off is still a trick. Think about it: North Korea, after many failures, finally managed to send this rocket screaming into the sky, shedding stages with split-second timing, cracking out of the atmosphere, and launching a small satellite. Its top speed was probably about 17,000 miles an hour, and it possibly could have reached California if it had been pointed that way. Mind you, Kim still doesn't have a clue about how to feed his people, but his team seems to be getting the hang of this rocket science business. And when you combine that expertise with their nuclear weapons program, you've got the makings of an awful Christmas surprise.

There are still many hurdles before they could actually lob a nuke at the United States. They'd have to make a warhead small enough to ride on such a rocket. They'd have to develop reentry technology to keep it from burning up, and they'd have to come up with some way to control the targeting from very far away. But this week, Kim made it clear that his country is getting a lot closer to all of that, and he gave the world a gift that sadly could keep giving for many years.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/ www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

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CNN = POLITICS

Quoted

"When you combine that expertise with their nuclear weapons program, you've got the makings of an awful Christmas surprise."

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WEEKEND

2

Quoted

"To me, fantasy should be as real as possible. I don't buy into the notion that if it's fantastical, it should be unrealistic. You have to have a sense of believing the world you're going into. The levels of detail in that are very important."

JACKSON

DEFENDING 'THE HOBBIT'

Peter Jackson's new trilogy of Tolkien films was in the news long before its Friday release ◐ The cast and crew reflect on the controversies surrounding the movies

For years, film industry insiders have been following the making of "The Hobbit" with as much enthusiasm as fans of the original J.R.R. Tolkien novel about Middle Earth. As the prequel to the immensely successful "The Lord of the Rings" films, production of "The Hobbit" was mired for years in studio budgeting issues and a change of directors to helm the films. Add to that director Peter Jackson's decision to split the story into three films and to use the new technology of filming at a higher frame rate (double the standard 24 frames per second), and you've got a story that goes far beyond the tale of Bilbo Baggins and his voyage to The Lonely Mountain. As the cast and crew came together to promote the first of the new series, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," they addressed the choices that went into the making of a new franchise.

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Peter Jackson on his reluctance to direct 'The Hobbit' after Guillermo Del Toro left the project:

"I thought that I wouldn't enjoy it, is the truth," says Jackson, who directed the film adaptations of Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." "I thought I'd be competing against myself to some degree. I thought it would be interesting to have another director. Guillermo Del Toro was involved for a while. But after Guillermo left, because of the delays we were facing, it was still another six months or so before we got the green light. During that period of time, I just thought, well, I am actually enjoying this a lot more. ... I'd come to realize that there's a lot of charm, a lot of humor in 'The Hobbit' that 'The Lord of the Rings' didn't have. ... I thought, you know what? This is not 'Lord of the Rings.' I'm not going to try to make another film exactly like that. This gives me the opportunity to do something different."

"I'd come to realize that there's a lot of charm, a lot of humor in 'The Hobbit' that 'The Lord of the Rings' didn't have."
JACKSON

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

▶ Peter Jackson gives direction on the set of elf village Rivendell.

Stars Andy Serkis and Sir Ian McKellen defend Jackson's decision to split 'The Hobbit' into three films:

"Anyone who thinks Peter Jackson would fall for market forces rather than artistic imperative doesn't know the guy and hasn't really examined the body of his work," says McKellen, who reprises his role as Gandalf from "The Lord of the Rings" series.

"It definitely warrants three films," Andy Serkis asserts about the slim children's novel. In addition to returning to the role of Gollum, Serkis is the director of the second unit for all three films. "These films are underlaid and textured with incredible detail. The dwarf characters in Tolkien's book are very thinly sketched. ... Every single dwarf, [in the films] you will get to know throughout the course of this journey… Condensing it into two films seems almost impossible now."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

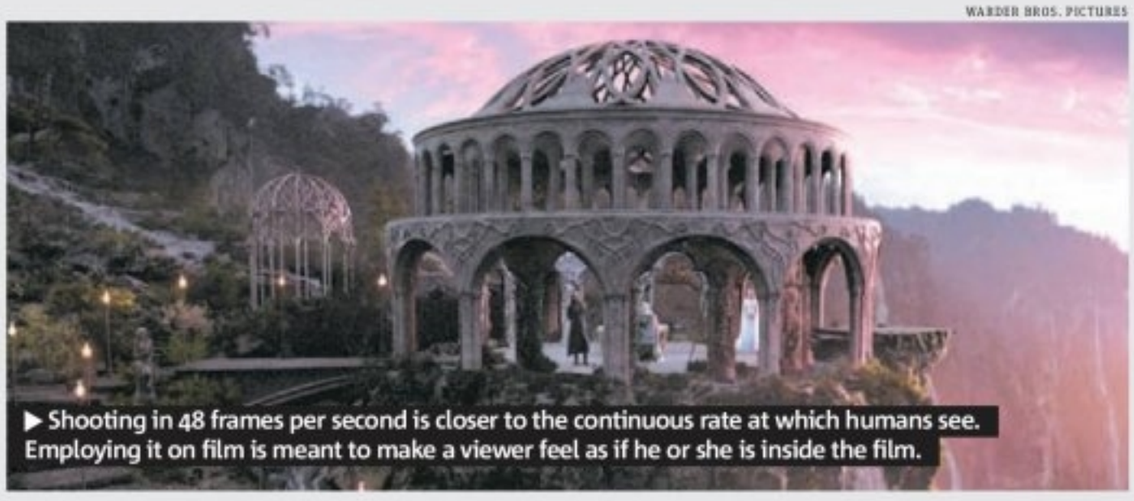
▶ Sir Ian McKellen, as the wizard Gandalf, considers his weapon.

"These films are underlaid and textured with incredible detail."
SERKIS

Peter Jackson discusses using the high frame rate technology, which is a manner of shooting at double the speed of regular film and is said to make 3-D technology easier on the eyes:

"It's the 48 [frames per second] that actually allows 3-D to reach the potential that it can achieve, because it's less eye strain and you have a sharper picture — which creates more of a three-dimensional world," Jackson says. "The thing to realize about it though is that it's not an attempt to change the film industry. It's another choice. The projectors that run at 48 frames can run at 24 frames. It doesn't have to be one thing or the other. ... For me, it gives that sense of reality, or immersiveness, that I love. It makes you feel like you are leaving the cinema seat and actually becoming part of the experience of the adventure of the film."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES



▶ Shooting in 48 frames per second is closer to the continuous rate at which humans see. Employing it on film is meant to make a viewer feel as if he or she is inside the film.

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TV watch list

'Homeland'

DRAMA. What's most terrifying about this terrorist thriller isn't the next potential threat against the U.S. — it's the idea that the "Homeland" masterminds have led us to believe killing off Brody is a possibility. **Season finale, Sunday, 10 p.m., Showtime**

'Winter in Portlandia'

COMEDY. Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein offer this half-hour holiday treat as a preview to Season 3 (premiering Jan. 4), which includes a sketch about how Portland residents deal with depressing Pacific Northwest winters. **Friday, 10:30 p.m., IFC**

'Royal Pains Off-Season Greetings'

COMEDY. Evan and Paige get married in the winter wonderland that is the Hamptons — or they try to. **Sunday, 9 p.m., USA** AMBER RAY

The curse of the prequel

Three three-hour movies is a bit much for an adaptation of a simple children's story Jackson's new filming technology is beautiful, but it also takes away the movie magic

Peter Jackson applies the same level of grandeur and heft to his adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkein's "The Hobbit" that he did to his previous triumph, the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. The problem is the source material for the new film — shot in 3-D at a doubled speed of 48 frames per second — doesn't deserve such epic scope. But more on that in a moment.

First, the technical: Jackson bets the lot on 48 frames per second, and he loses. Before your eyes adjust to the higher frame rate, everything seems to be moving too fast. Once it's settled down, though, the footage often looks somewhere between a high-definition 1980s BBC miniseries and a video game, and it just feels utterly un-cinematic. The biggest crime, though, is that the sweeping shots of the gorgeous New Zealand landscape look fake.

As for the content of the film, "The Hobbit" has the same fine acting, cinematography and art direction of the "The Lord of the Rings" films — but much more of the bloat. This is the first of three films adapted from a single slim volume, and it's nearly three hours long. What should be a lighthearted children's story — a Hobbit (Martin Freeman) helping a band of dwarves outwit a dragon — is instead presented as if the entire fate of Middle Earth were at stake. And Jackson milks every opportunity to remind the viewer that this story precedes the "Rings" trilogy, even souring the movie's best scene — featuring a phenomenal appearance by Gollum (Andy Serkis) — with an overwrought, foreshadowing ending. It's a bad habit running through the film that grows tedious. Perhaps like George Lucas with the "Star Wars" prequels, Jackson's success with his first trilogy meant consequently that there was no one to tell him something might not be a good idea in the next. In any event, we've got nearly six more hours of "The Hobbit" left to find out.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

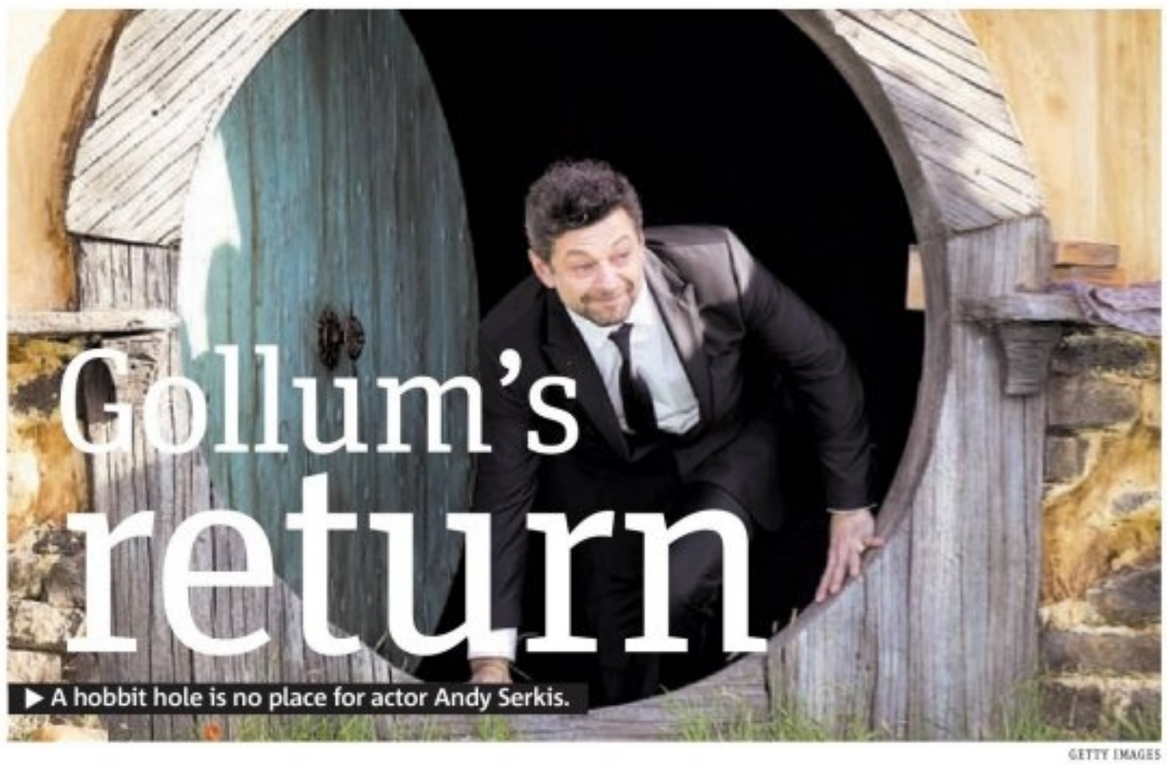
If you go

'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey'
Director: Peter Jackson
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●●○○

▶ Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) is the odd hobbit out while traveling with a band of dwarves in "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Venerated innovator of the motion capture performance Andy Serkis returns to the character that made him world famous for 'The Hobbit'



Gollum's return

▶ A hobbit hole is no place for actor Andy Serkis.

GETTY IMAGES

It hardly sounds favorable to say that Andy Serkis looks like the character he's known best for inhabiting — Gollum is one homely ex-hobbit — but the piercing blue eyes that both possess do have a habit of captivating those on whom they're set. Take us for example, sitting down with Serkis to discuss his reentry into J.R.R. Tolkien's universe with Peter Jackson's new trilogy, "The Hobbit." The ever-charming British actor spoke to us about limbering up for motion-capture acting and the tedium of being Hollywood's go-to man for animated roles.

After playing this physically demanding role for a six films, you must have some sort of Gollum calisthenics routine.

I have to stretch out every day now, because a lot of the roles I have played in recent times have been physical. ... My back took a hit when I did Gollum the first time around.

Well you have a lot more to go, playing the ape Caesar in the "Planet of the Apes" sequel.

That's absolutely right, because the most exhausting part of that role was playing him as a young chimp. That was pretty tortuous. That was hard work. He had the fast energy, but [he is] low and crouched and then spinning around. I was pretty exhausted doing that.

In "The Hobbit," Gollum has a scene with Bilbo Baggins that is said to be the most iconic of anything Tolkien wrote. Had you rehearsed this in your mind, even before you started shooting the first "Lord of the Rings" film?

"I'd rather it be that they understood what it is, and then it wouldn't be so much of a big deal."
SERKIS, ON MOTION-CAPTURE ACTING

Absolutely, because it's the source, obviously, of losing the ring — and from then on it becomes Gollum's revenge. The desire to kill Baggins and get back the [ring] is what drives the entire "Rings" trilogy, so this is the source of it and it's that which makes it, because obviously it was back-engineered. "The Lord of the Rings" was written after "The Hobbit," so the subsequent publications of "The Hobbit" have more about the ring, which Tolkien went back and wrote. The effect of the ring on Bilbo and his constant memories of it are what Tolkien went back and wrote in, because he realized how obviously the ring was going to be very important.

After playing Gollum, King Kong, Caesar and Captain Haddock (in "The Adventures of Tintin"), your name has become synonymous with this motion-capture technology. Are you happy being known firstly as a motion-capture actor?

I suppose by definition I'd rather it be that they understood what it is, and then it wouldn't be so much of a big deal. It's a double-edged sword, because it's nice to have been a part of a pioneering technology and to align acting with that and to actually say to the acting community this technology offers you unlimited possibilities in terms of what you play — you're not limited by sex, by size, by anything, apart from your acting. ... I suppose I've been given the task of explaining what it is, so I've become a kind of spokesperson for it, unwittingly.

HEIDI PATALANO
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Q&A

Are you more comfortable doing motion-capture roles, as opposed to showing your face on camera?

No, no. In terms of acting it's the same thing. There's no difference. It's technology. That's the thing; performance capture is a technology, which is another way of recording an actor's performance. ... That's the thing that people find hard to understand — that's it a type of acting. To play Gollum is no different to playing Ian Dury or to play King Kong is no different to playing Ian Dury. It's all about characterization and embodying that role and finding a physicality and physical vocabulary, a mental understanding, building the emotional arc of the character and just getting into the role — and that's the same whether you're wearing a costume and makeup and a caliper on one leg or crawling around as Gollum.

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2013 Golden Globe nominations — snubs and surprises

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Megan Fox, along with Jessica Alba and Ed Helms, announced the Hollywood Foreign Press nominations yesterday.

Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" leads this year's Golden Globe Awards nominations, placing in seven categories including Best Drama, with nods for Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner as well as actors Daniel Day-Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Field and composer John Williams. Other favorites for the Hollywood Foreign Press include Ben Affleck's "Argo," Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty" and Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained," all of which received Best Drama and Best Director nods, as well as other nominations.

On the television side, new series "Nashville," "Smash" and "The Newsroom" earned accolades, while longtime awards favorite "Mad Men" failed to make the Best Television Drama list for the first time. Critical favorites "Homeland" and "Downton Abbey" earned four and three nominations each, respectively, and are expected to be favorites when the awards are handed out.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live Jan. 13, hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who are nominated against each other in the Best Actress in a Television Comedy category.

Biggest surprises

The Hollywood Foreign Press clearly has a thing for Nicole Kidman, nominating the actress in both film and TV categories. Her nod for Lee Daniels' "The Paperboy" may be the most controversial this year, as the film was widely panned. Also a surprise? Multiple nominations for "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen," an early 2012 film with little to no awards campaign. Stars Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt earned acting nods, while the film made the Best Musical or Comedy list.

Biggest snubs

While Tom Hooper's presumed awards season juggernaut "Les Miserables" earned nods for Best Musical or Comedy, actor Hugh Jackman and supporting actress Anne Hathaway, Hooper himself didn't make the Best Director list. Other notable snubs include Robert DeNiro for "Silver Linings Playbook" — though Best Supporting Actor is the tightest race this year — and indie darling "Beasts of the Southern Wild," which didn't receive a single nomination.

Film nominations

Best Motion Picture – Drama
- "Argo"
- "Django Unchained"
- "Life of Pi"
- "Lincoln"
- "Zero Dark Thirty"

Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy
- "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
- "Les Miserables"
- "Moonrise Kingdom"
- "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"
- "Silver Linings Playbook"

Best Director
- Ben Affleck, "Argo"
- Kathryn Bigelow, "Zero Dark Thirty"
- Ang Lee, "Life of Pi"
- Steven Spielberg, "Lincoln"
- Quentin Tarantino, "Django Unchained"

Best Actor – Drama
- Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln"
- Richard Gere, "Arbitrage"
- John Hawkes, "The Sessions"
- Joaquin Phoenix, "The Master"
- Denzel Washington, "Flight"

Best Actor – Musical or Comedy
- Jack Black, "Bernie"
- Bradley Cooper, "Silver Linings Playbook"
- Hugh Jackman, "Les Miserables"
- Ewan McGregor, "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"
- Billy Murray "Hyde Park on Hudson"

Best Actress – Drama
- Marion Cotillard, "Rust and Bone"
- Jessica Chastain, "Zero Dark Thirty"
- Helen Mirren, "Hitchcock"
- Naomi Watts, "The Impossible"
- Rachel Weisz, "The Deep Blue Sea"

Best Actress – Musical or Comedy
- Emily Blunt, "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"
- Judi Dench, "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
- Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"
- Maggie Smith, "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
- Meryl Streep, "Hope Springs"

For the complete list of motion picture and TV nominees, visit www.metro.us.

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The 'Memphis' blues

Tony award-winning musical lacks soul Formulaic plot and forgettable songs don't let the actors shine

The only thing missing from "Memphis," the formulaic musical currently at the Emerson Colonial Theatre, is soul. Unfortunately, it's a critical piece of the puzzle.

Set in the South in the 1950s, this Tony award-winning musical (must've been a slow year on Broadway) is the tale of a white high school dropout who falls in love with rock 'n' roll, black music and a black woman with an amazing voice. His quest to bring her music to the world changes lives and cultures, while uniting intolerant, bigoted people.

The premise is not new and, unfortunately for this creative team, "Hairspray" did it so much better that it's hard not to yearn for Tracy Turnblad during what should be some of the biggest, brightest moments of "Memphis."

It's painful to say, but the music, written by Bon Jovi's David Bryan, while adequate, is forgettable. Joe DiPietro's book also lacks the requisite oomph to make you root so hard for these people that you leap to your feet for the big finish.

The blank faces on the audience during "Steal Your Rock 'n' Roll," (what should be the rousing final number) say it best. "Memphis" is fine, but nothing to get excited about.

The show's listless essence does a great disservice to some incredibly talented performers. Felicia Boswell reaches the rafters with hair-raising vocals while Bryan Fenkart delivers a delightful turn as Huey. Julie Johnson also earns raves as Gladys, while Will Mann, unfortunately, seems to run out of steam early in Act II.

NICK DUSSAULT
nick.dussault@metro.us

If you go

'Memphis'
Through Dec. 23
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Plot points

Huey, whose calling is "playing race music for white folks," becomes a radio and TV star in Memphis for doing what he loves best. Unfortunately, his love for black singing sensation Felicia is no match for racial strife or her desire to make it in the music business.

PAUL KOLNIK

▶ Felicia Boswell, Rhett George, Bryan Fenkart and Will Mann fail to make sweet soul music.

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▶ The Dream Fairies get busy.

Understated excellence from Jose Mateo Ballet

This version of 'The Nutcracker' wows with its simplicity Though the company has been doing it for 25 years, the real stars here are actually the youngest dancers See it at the Sanctuary or at the Strand

Though it's a silver celebration for the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, as the troupe celebrates 25 years of "The Nutcracker," you'd hardly know it by looking at the environment where the piece is being performed.

Set in its unique home in Harvard Square's Sanctuary Theatre, simple sets strip away the pomp and circumstance from the show, leaving the audience to enjoy the heart of the show — the choreography.

Snow Queen (Emma Ward) floats across the floor with grace and strong technique as she is paired with not one, but four Snow Princes. At times, the small stage seems overcrowded for such a big theatrical scene, but it works.

Without a doubt, the stars of the night are the youngest dancers, led by Cecilia Zevallos. Not only are they great dancers, they're great actors. With an audience capped at 250, there is no room for mistakes. Party children are quick-thinking on their feet, little mice give their best "death" and the Polichinelles seem to really enjoy the adrenaline of being onstage.

KATRINA T. LALLIER
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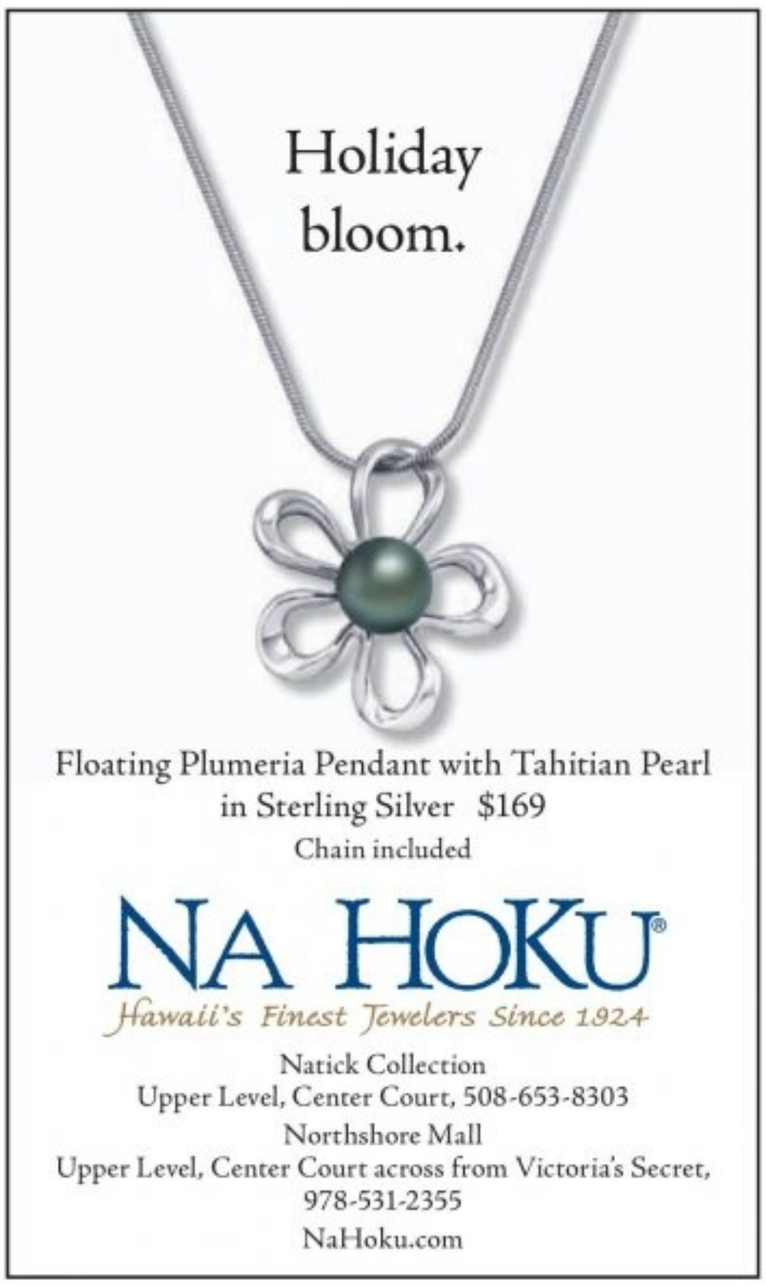

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At the corner of Tremont & Avery St.

ANNA KARENINA (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 11:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:25, 2:15, 5:15, 8:10, 11:05. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:25-2:15-5:15-8:10-11:00. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 7:10, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 7:10-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) 12:05, 2:30, 5:20, 8:20, 10:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:50. IMAX 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 12:30, 4:30, 8:30. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 10:00, 2:00, 6:00, 9:50. HIGH FRAME RATE;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 9:40, 10:30, 1:30, 2:30, 5:15, 6:30, 9:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation
HYDE PARK ON HUDSON (R) 9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:35, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:40, 11:10. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:35-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:40-11:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 10:45, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 3:20, 7:05, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:40-3:20-7:05-10:30. Digital Presentation
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 2:30, 6:00, 8:35, 11:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:40-2:30-6:00-8:35. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) 11:00. Digital Projection
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 11:15, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30. RealD 3D
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Sat** 11:59. Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** 9:50, 12:40, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 3:30-6:45-9:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50-12:40-3:30-6:45-9:40. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 11:50, 3:15, 6:40, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 9:45-1:00-4:30-7:50. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

REGAL CINEMAS

Fenway 13 & RPX
617-424-6266
201 Brookline Ave.

ARGO (R) 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 11:45, 3:45, 8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; 10:45-2:45-7:00-10:55. HFR;RPX; 11:00-3:00-7:15. HFR
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 11:15, 2:30, 3:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:45, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 3:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 3:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:20, 6:25, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 12:20-6:25-10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:10, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 11:55, 3:05, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 11:55-3:05-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 11:35, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:25, 3:40, 7:10, 10:25. CC-Closed Captions; **Sun** 12:25-4:20-7:25-10:25. CC-Closed Captions
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 10:55, 2:35, 7:05, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** 11:25-3:25-7:05-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 10:55-2:35-7:05-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 11:05, 2:55, 7:20, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** 7:20-10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 11:05-2:55-7:20-10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 12:10, 3:35, 6:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Corner Theatre
617-734-2500
290 Harvard St., Brookline

ANNA KARENINA (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
ARGO (R) 4:40, 9:30
CHASING ICE (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
EVERYTHING IS TERRIBLE: HOLIDAY SPECIAL 2012 (NR) **Fri** 12:00
THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
KIDS' SHOW: ALASTAIR MOOK'S HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA **Sat** 10:30
MAHLER ON THE COUCH (MAHLER AUF DER COUCH) (NR) **Fri** 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:40; **Sat** 2:40-4:50-7:00-9:40.; **Sun** 12:00-4:40-7:00-9:40.
THE SESSIONS (R) 12:00, 2:20, 7:20

amc ENTERTAINMENT

Braintree 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 93 off of Exit 6

FLIGHT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40. Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 12:00, 2:15, 4:00, 6:15, 7:30, 10:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:30-12:00-2:15-4:00-6:15-7:30-10:00. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 12:15. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 3:15, 6:30, 11:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 3:15-6:30. RealD 3D
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 10:30, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:40. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:45-4:00-7:15-10:20. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30, 3:10, 6:05, 11:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:30-3:10-6:05. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation

amc ENTERTAINMENT

Burlington Cinema 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Across from Burlington Mall

FLIGHT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 7:20. Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 11:00, 1:30, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:10, 10:40. RealD 3D; **Sat** 9:30-11:00-1:30-3:00-5:00-7:00-9:10-10:40. RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:50-11:00-1:30-3:00-5:00-7:00-8:30. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 12:00, 4:00, 8:00. Digital Presentation; **Fri** 10:00-9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00-12:00-4:00-8:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:30-12:00-4:00-8:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 2:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 10:40, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00. RealD 3D; **Sat** 5:20-8:10-11:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:40-5:20-8:10. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 10:30, 12:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:10, 7:30, 9:55. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 9:30-12:30-4:15-6:10-7:30-10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-12:30-2:30-4:15-6:10-7:30. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 10:20, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 9:30-12:50-3:20-5:50-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50-12:50-3:20-5:50-8:30. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 10:10, 12:00, 4:45. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 9:35-12:00-4:45. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 2:20, 7:20. RealD 3D; **Sun** 2:20. RealD 3D
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 10:00, 1:10, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 9:25-1:10-4:30-7:50-11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:40-1:10-4:30-7:50. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-1:00-4:00-6:40. Digital Presentation

LANDMARK KENDALL SQUARE CINEMA
617-499-1996
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge

ANNA KARENINA (R) **Fri** 2:15, 5:10, 8:15; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:45-2:15-5:10-8:15.
THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE (NR) **Fri** 1:00, 3:40, 6:35, 9:25; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:20-1:00-3:40-6:35-9:25.
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:40-1:20-3:50-6:40-9:35.
HYDE PARK ON HUDSON (R) **Fri** 1:10, 2:10, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:15, 9:10, 9:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:35-11:35-1:10-2:10-3:45-4:45-6:30-7:15-9:10-9:45.
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30; **Sat** 10:55-1:15-4:00-7:10-9:30.; **Sun** 10:55-1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 10:45, 11:30, 2:30, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation
TAKEN 2 (PG-13) 11:45, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 2:15, 8:00. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 5:30, 11:20. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:45-5:30. RealD 3D

amc ENTERTAINMENT

Framingham 16
888-AMC-4FUN
22 Flutie Pass

ANNA KARENINA (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-1:00-4:10-7:10-10:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ARGO (R) **Fri** 10:15, 1:10. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:15-1:10. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50. Digital Presentation
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 1:00, 3:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:00, 11:20. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:30-1:00-3:30-5:00-7:30-9:00. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 2:00, 6:00, 10:00. HIGH FRAME RATE;RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:00-2:00-5:50-9:40. HIGH FRAME RATE;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 2:45, 4:15, 6:45, 8:15, 10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-2:45-4:15-6:45-8:15. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 1:40. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:40-4:35-7:25-10:15. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:20, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:35-1:30-4:30-7:20-9:55. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:40. Digital Projection; **Sun** 9:20. Digital Projection
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 2:20, 7:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 2:20-7:25. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 5:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:45-5:00. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:10-2:10-5:10-8:10. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 11:50, 3:15, 6:50, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 12:50-6:50-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:50-3:15-6:50-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-1:50-4:50-7:40-10:20. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 1:15, 6:40. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 10:30, 4:00. RealD 3D

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Patriot Place
800-315-4000
24 Patroit Place, Foxboro

ARGO (R) **Fri** 12:35, 3:55, 6:50, 9:30, 12:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 6:50-9:30-12:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:35-3:55-6:50-9:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:25, 12:30, 1:00, 2:15, 4:15, 4:45, 6:05, 8:00, 8:30, 9:55, 11:45. REAL D 3D; 10:25-12:30-2:15-4:15-6:05-8:00-9:55. Lux Level;REAL D 3D; **Sun** 10:25-12:30-1:00-2:15-4:15-4:45-6:05-8:00-8:30-9:55. REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00, 6:45, 10:25. HIGH FRAME RATE IN REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 12:00, 3:45, 7:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00-3:45-7:30-11:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 7:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sun** 12:00-3:45-7:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sun** 12:00-3:45-7:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 12:15, 2:35, 7:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 12:40, 4:05, 7:20, 10:10. REAL D 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:40, 3:15, 6:40, 7:10, 9:50, 10:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; 11:40-3:15-7:10-10:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55; **Sat** 12:55. Lux Level
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:30-4:10-7:05-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RED DAWN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:55, 9:45, 11:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 4:55-9:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10, 11:20. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 12:10-2:25-4:40-11:20. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:10-2:25-4:40-6:55-9:10. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
SKYFALL (PG-13) 12:05, 3:10, 6:35, 9:40. PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:20, 3:30, 6:25, 9:15, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:20-3:30-6:25-9:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 12:50, 3:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION

amc ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Methuen 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Rte. 213 between I-93 & I-495

ARGO (R) 11:20, 6:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE COLLECTION (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:45, 6:50, 11:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:45-6:50. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) 2:30, 9:10. Digital Presentation
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00, 11:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:10-3:45-6:20-9:00.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 2:45, 6:45, 10:45. IMAX 3D; **Sun** 11:00-2:45-6:45-10:30. IMAX 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 1:00, 1:40, 4:45, 5:30, 8:45, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 6:00, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:30-6:00-9:30.
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:30, 10:00; **Sun** 4:30.
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 7:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-7:20.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-8:00.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 5:45, 10:00; **Sat** 1:10-5:45-10:00.; **Sun** 1:10-5:45.
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 4:15, 7:15, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:00-4:15-7:15-9:40.

Showcase Cinema de Lux Revere
800-315-4000
565 Squire Road

ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:25, 12:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 9:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE COLLECTION (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 12:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 10:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION
FLIGHT (R) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:35, 2:00, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30, 12:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:35-2:00-4:35-7:00-9:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 7:45, 8:15, 8:45, 11:30, 12:00. REAL D 3D; **Sun** 12:15-12:45-1:15-4:00-4:30-5:00-7:45-8:15-8:45. REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 10:45, 2:30, 6:15, 10:15. HIGH FRAME RATE IN REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00, 6:45, 9:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45-3:30-7:15-11:00. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating; **Sun** 11:45-3:30-7:15. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:20-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI (PG) 11:05, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LINCOLN (PG-13) 12:35, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; 12:05-3:15-6:40-9:50. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55. LIVE HD
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 7:55-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:55-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:50, 10:25, 12:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:50-10:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20. REAL D 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05, 12:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:00-4:05-7:05-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 6:05, 9:10, 12:15. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; 11:20-2:40. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL;Reserved Seating; **Sun** 6:05-9:10. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:05, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 6:25-9:05-11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
55 Davis Square

ARGO (R) **Fri** 7:10, 9:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:40-7:10-9:45.
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 6:45, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-6:45-9:30.
THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (PG-13) **Fri** 7:00, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:20-7:00-9:40.
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 7:00, 9:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-7:00-9:50.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 4:30, 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:00-4:30-8:00.
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 6:00, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:30-6:00-9:30.
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:30, 10:00; **Sun** 4:30.
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 7:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-7:20.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-8:00.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 5:45, 10:00; **Sat** 1:10-5:45-10:00.; **Sun** 1:10-5:45.
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 4:15, 7:15, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:00-4:15-7:15-9:40.

Showcase Cinema de Lux Revere
800-315-4000
565 Squire Road

ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:25, 12:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 9:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE COLLECTION (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 12:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 10:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION
FLIGHT (R) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:35, 2:00, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30, 12:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:35-2:00-4:35-7:00-9:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 7:45, 8:15, 8:45, 11:30, 12:00. REAL D 3D; **Sun** 12:15-12:45-1:15-4:00-4:30-5:00-7:45-8:15-8:45. REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 10:45, 2:30, 6:15, 10:15. HIGH FRAME RATE IN REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00, 6:45, 9:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45-3:30-7:15-11:00. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating; **Sun** 11:45-3:30-7:15. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:20-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI (PG) 11:05, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LINCOLN (PG-13) 12:35, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; 12:05-3:15-6:40-9:50. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: AIDA (NR) **Sat** 12:55. LIVE HD
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 7:55-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:55-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:50, 10:25, 12:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:50-10:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20. REAL D 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05, 12:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:00-4:05-7:05-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 6:05, 9:10, 12:15. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; 11:20-2:40. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL;Reserved Seating; **Sun** 6:05-9:10. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:05, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 6:25-9:05-11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION

Brattle Theatre
617-876-6837
40 Brattle Street

BRAZIL (R) **Sat** 9:30
THE CITY OF LOST CHILDREN (LA CITE DES ENFANTS PERDUS) (R) **Sun** 9:30
GREMLINS (PG) **Fri** 9:45
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946) (PG) **Fri** 7:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:30-3:30-6:30.

The rundown

THEATER

'The Embryos'
Through Saturday
Factory Theater
791 Tremont St., Boston
$20, 866-811-4111
www.freshinktheatre.com
In this surreal play by Ginger Lazarus, a couple who are unable to conceive because of the wife's damaged uterus decide to raise their in-vitro embryos instead. They name them Leggo and Eggo (we swear we're not making this up), and domestic bliss seems assured until the twins start to become ... dangerous. Will they have to give them up after all?

'Two Gentlemen of Verona'
Through Jan. 6
Davis Square Theatre
255 Elm St., Somerville
$28-$50, 866-811-4111
www.actorsshakespeareproject.org
The Actors' Shakespeare Project present one of their boy's more unsung comedies, placing it in a modern setting, which only highlights its decidedly old-world sexual politics. In one infamous scene, a character threatens to rape his unrequited love. After a sincere apology, however, her father offers her hand to the creep! Scholars still debate the exchange's interpretation.

Art

▶ The sirens have their mic set up, but they won't sing until they're good and ready!

Ragnar Kjartansson: Song

Through April 7
Institute of Contemporary Art
100 Northern Ave., Boston
$10-$15, 617-478-3100
www.icaboston.org
Icelandic video artist Ragnar Kjartansson's first solo exhibition in the United States features several pieces from the last decade. A highlight: "The Man," depicting ancient blues-man Pinetop Perkins singing and muttering at his piano in the middle of a lonely, gray field, like the very incarnation of the blues itself. The one pictured here is also a highlight, of course.

MUSIC

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn
Sunday through Dec. 22
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$75, 617-824-8000
www.aestages.org
WGBH's Brian O'Donovan returns with his annual assembly of Irish musicians for an emerald-tinged holiday concert.

State Radio
Saturday, 8 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$25-$100, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com
Dispatch's Chad Urmston continued this locally based post-Dispatch project even after his original band reunited a few years back. Of course, State Radio, despite a shared fan base, was never just Dispatch II. Urmston's solo work has a somewhat different agenda — it's more politically driven and less overtly jammy. This show is a benefit for Urmston's nonprofit organization Calling All Crows.

Winterbloom
Friday, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Oberon
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
$25-$35, 617-547-8300
www.cluboberon.com
Singer/songwriters Antje Duvekot, Anne Heaton, Meg Hutchinson and Natalia Zukerman occasionally get together, Voltron-style, to form Winterbloom. This is their annual holiday show, celebrating the season through their members' diverse religious and cultural lenses. There's lots of heartwarming meditations on togetherness and sacredness, and not a little snide humor — because without humor, togetherness can get cramped and sacredness tedious.

DANCE

Christmas Reflections
Through Sunday
Robsham Theater, BC
140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill
$15, 617-552-4002
www.bc.edu
Jesuit choreographer Robert VerEecke's annual Christmas concert, with its mixture of dance,

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Movies

'It's a Wonderful Life'

Friday through Sunday
Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St., Cambridge
$7-$8, 617-876-6837
www.brattlefilm.org

If you think Frank Capra's 1946 tear-jerking sleeper hit is schmaltzy, sentimental B.S., you haven't seen it in a while, because it's actually an emotional roller-coaster ride, fully aware of the inevitability of death, regret and dashed hopes. Seriously, how many life-affirming movies start off with the hero about to kill himself? Dramatic? Yeah, but it's hardly holiday fluff.

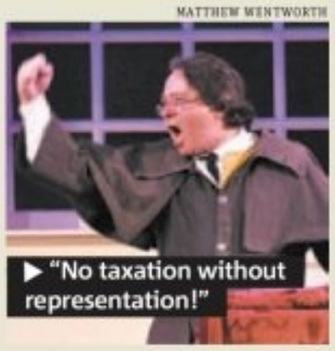
History

Boston Tea Party Annual Reenactment

Tuesday, 4 p.m.
Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston
$15, 617-482-6439
www.osmh.org

This piece of theatrical edutainment, staged on the same day, Dec. 16, that the Boston Tea Party actually took place, resurrects not only the infamous protest itself but the lively debate that preceded it, after which you'll march down to the Wharf with the Sons of Liberty and cheer as they make iced tea out of Boston Harbor. Take that, England!

MATTHEW WENTWORTH



▶ "No taxation without representation!"

ART

Figuring Absence: The Waning of the Body in Contemporary Art

Saturday, 11 a.m.
Harvard Art Museums/Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge
$6-$9, 617-495-9400
www.harvardartmuseums.org

stories and music, bears the legacy of his work "A Dancer's Christmas," a beloved Boston College Christmas institution he retired in 2008 — refusing, presumably, to rest on his laurels.

It's easier to forget you have a body today than ever, when death is less sudden and exercise has to be scheduled in. This gallery talk, using pieces from the Harvard Art Museums' collections, will explore the modern detachment from the body through the lens of contemporary art.

MATTHEW DINARO

The Bazaar Bizarre buzz

Whether it's crab people, glitterlimes or punctuation-loving monsters, the organization that calls itself Small Craft Advisory makes sure to give the Bazaar Bizarre Boston a unique feel amongst other craft shows in the area. With an elaborate jury process, the event is bringing in about 25 percent more new vendors than last year.

"They completely understand how to run a show," comments Liz Smith, creator of Made in Lowell.

Since 2001, Bazaar Bizarre has been run by craftspeople and artists showcasing their creative talents. In the case of Smith, it's crafts like cupcake-shaped pin cushions and crocheted flowers. Other venders, like The Orange Owl, pride themselves on their eco-friendly approach.

"The basic philosophy behind our venture is that you are what you put in and on your body," says the Owl's Akshata Nayak. The Orange Owl offers 100-percent vegan skincare products like handcrafted soaps, lip balms, body butters, body scrubs and bath salts.

Other artists that will be at the event include Bearded Tales of Woe from Boston, Lady Dye Fiber Works from Boston, Morris & Essex from Maine, KAIZEN by Muffy Brandt from Rhode Island, Meera Lee Patel from New Jersey, DanMade from Vermont, Sweet Lydia's from Lowell and Poor & Pretty from Connecticut.

ESTHER PACHECO

If you go

Bazaar Bizarre
Sunday, noon-6 p.m.
Cyclorama
Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont St., Boston, $1
www.bazaarbizarre.org

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Banks loves the Piano Man, Jason Alexander is something of a card shark, Rashida Jones is holding on to her childhood and Garry Shandling is giving up.

@ElizabethBanks
Snark all you want hipsters, Billy Joel sounds great. The man's still got it.

@IJasonAlexander
Having a blast killing my poker pals at Brad Garrett's house. One more hand, I own the house.

@iamrashidajones
I love E.T. and still believe he is real.

@GarryShandling
Oh, let the Koreans have outer space.

Rashida Jones

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Krakowski: One last fit before Christmas

Much to "30 Rock" fans' chagrin, **Jane Krakowski** is getting a little break for the holiday season now that the sitcom is currently filming its last-ever episode. "It's a very busy time right now between wrapping up '30 Rock' and being a relatively new mom, and we're having Christmas dinner at our house this year for the first time," she said at an event for Bank of America, which raised money for Feeding America. "Hopefully it'll be good; we wanted to sort of bring the joy of Christmas to our home, so our whole family is coming over. It should be a nice day and a nice way to sort of start a new chapter with '30 Rock' ending."

— With reporting by Meredith Engel

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Krakowski is playing Christmas hostess this year.

"Yesterday we shot Jenna's last temper tantrum. It was fantastic. They told me to go as far as I wanted to go and the entire crew applauded when it was over because everyone knew it was the last time Jenna would be insulting people and throwing things. It was very fun — incredibly satisfying."
JANE KRAKOWSKI

Frankel's marriage is 'pretty much over'

Bethenny Frankel already has a successful empire — does she need a successful marriage?

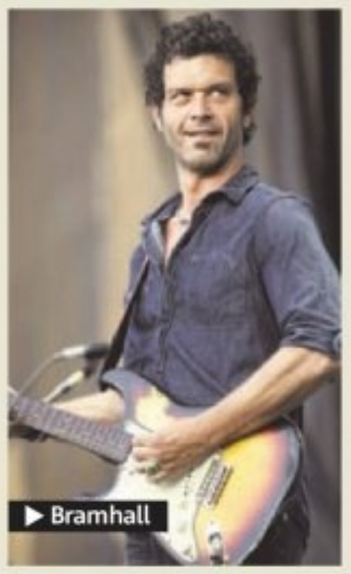
According to RadarOnline, she has already made her choice, and it's going to be her work.

"It's pretty much over between Bethenny and Jason," a source tells the site about Frankel and husband **Jason Hoppy**, with whom she has a 2-year-old daughter named **Bryn**. Frankel reportedly took Bryn to Miami for Thanksgiving without Hoppy. "They are already living separate lives," says the source.

The source also says that Frankel isn't involved in her marriage and is instead focused on her Skinnygirl drinks franchise, book deals and upcoming talk show gig. "She doesn't seem to be too upset about the demise of their marriage. She is really focused on her career and her product line right now, so it sort of consumes her, which is probably why the marriage starting falling apart in the first place," the source says.

Zellweger's new man?

Renee Zellweger apparently has a new man in her life. The actress was spotted at LAX airport smooching musician and producer **Doyle Bramhall II**, who previously dated **Sheryl Crow**, according to Us Weekly. "They went to college together," a source says of the couple. "It's going really well." Zellweger was last linked romantically to **Bradley Cooper**, but they split up in March 2011 after dating for less than two years.


▶ Bramhall

Talking points

Penn opens up about marriage

Two years after his divorce from **Robin Wright, Sean Penn** is opening up about their marriage — and his entire romantic history. "There is no shame in saying that we all want to be loved by someone. As I look back over my life in romance, I don't feel I've ever had that," he tells Esquire magazine. And while he doesn't mention Wright by name, he does discuss their split. "When you get divorced, all the truths come out, you sit there and go, 'What the f— was I doing? What was I doing believing that this person was invested in this way?'" he says. "Which is a fantastically strong humiliation in the best sense. It can make somebody very bitter and very hard and closed off, but I find it does the opposite to me."

▶ Penn just wants to be loved.

Lohan is in more trouble with the law

Lindsay Lohan's probation has been revoked following her most recent legal trouble — and she now could face up to 245 days in jail if found guilty of probation violation, according to People magazine. Lohan herself didn't appear in court this week, with her long-suffering lawyer, **Shawn Holley**, appearing on her behalf. "We're all hoping to get this behind us very quickly," Holley told reporters. Lohan will have to appear at the next court date on Jan.15, though, for a hearing on her probation status and a trial on three misdemeanor charges stemming from Lohan's rear-ending of a dump truck with a rented Porsche over the summer. Lohan was also arrested in New York recently for getting into a fight in a nightclub. Her judge, **Stephanie Sautner**, had previously instructed Lohan to avoid nightclubs and stay out of trouble.

Gabriel Aubry won't be facing charges

Gabriel Aubry won't be facing criminal charges following his Thanksgiving day brawl with **Olivier Martinez**, the fiance of ex-girlfriend **Halle Berry**, according to TMZ. In lieu of a formal hearing, the Los Angeles City Attorney is expected to hold an informal office meeting to discuss the altercation with Aubry, but the French-Canadian model won't have to worry about any further repercussions.

12-12-12: The stars aligned

- These were our favorite moments from backstage at MSG on Thursday
- Though the star-studded show is over, those wishing to donate money to relief efforts still can at www.121212concert.org

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"That was really weird," E Street Band guitarist Little Steven, right, told Metro after playing a 30-minute opening set with Bruce Springsteen. "We haven't played less than three hours ever!"

One highlight of the evening was standing next to Katie Holmes and realizing how tall she is, which might be what "Saturday Night Live" star Jason Sudeikis was thinking in this photo. "SNL" cast members were mingling backstage with an enthusiasm that you might think would have diminished over time, as every week they rub elbows with musical guests and celebrity hosts. Also in attendance: Seth Meyers, Fred Armisen and Bobby Moynihan — the latter was hilariously in his full "Drunk Uncle" getup.

Sean Lennon played some air guitar.

During the Rolling Stones set, Mick Jagger joked, "This has got to be the largest collection of old English musicians ever assembled in Madison Square Garden." But not every celebrity fit into that category. Olivia Wilde and Sean Combs were both looking great at the show.

When the surviving members of Nirvana took the stage with Paul McCartney, it was heartening to watch seasoned journalists in the press room turn into wide-eyed teenagers at the sight of Dave Grohl wailing on a set of drums again.

"I think I actually stopped singing at one point to kiss him," Roger Waters said of his performance with Eddie Vedder. Jon Bon Jovi had been similarly overwhelmed to share the stage with Bruce Springsteen earlier in the evening and showed the same affection toward the Boss. PAT HEALY

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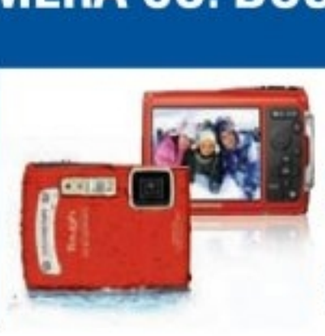

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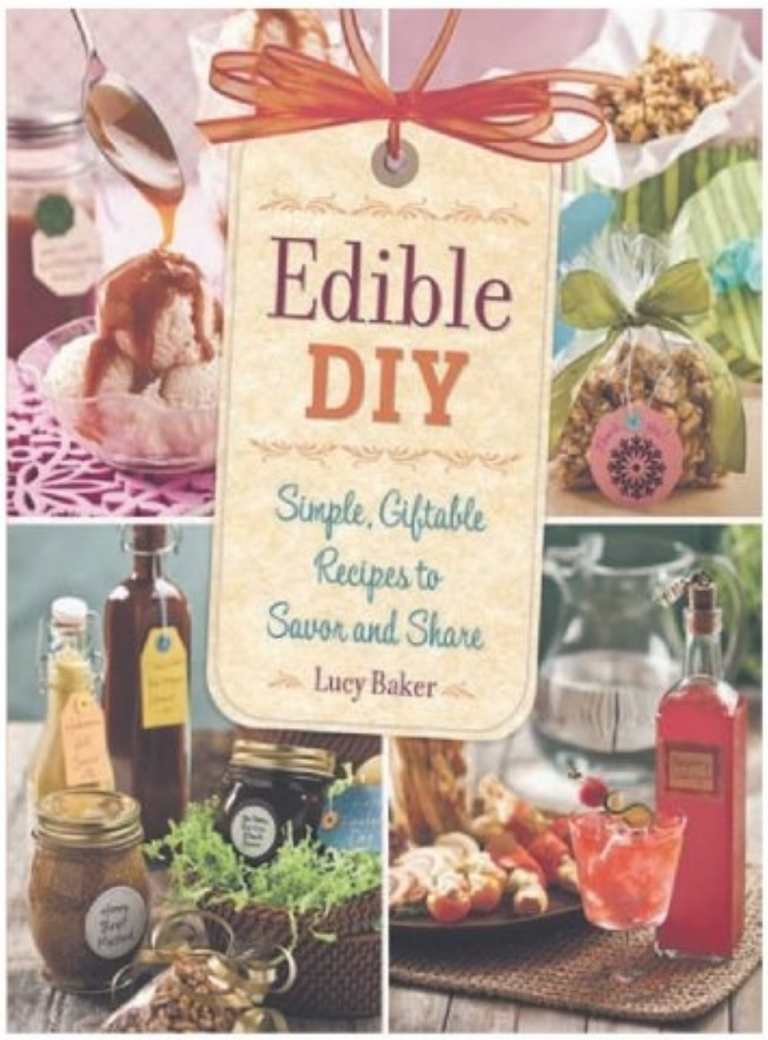
Made with love

Dream of being that crafty soul who shows up with homemade peanut brittle in adorable mason jars? Well now you can Lucy Baker makes it simple with her new book, 'Edible DIY,' full of delicious giftable ideas

Lucy Baker was tired of showing up to dinner parties with a typical bottle of wine. "That's what everyone does. I wanted to bring something different. I started making things like biscotti or homemade candy. A small token to say thank you," says the self-taught cook, whose new book, "Edible DIY," features 75 gift ideas ranging from margarita salt to flavored bourbons. And for those who haven't spent too much time in the kitchen, Baker assures us that her recipes are "dead simple." "The holidays are really stressful and everybody needs some ways to cut corners, so there's no shame in using store-bought caramels to melt down," she says.

Here, she lets us into her crafty world.



Lucy Baker

Why DIY gifts?

"A homemade gift is always appreciated because its very personal and it shows that you really care, that you didn't go out and just buy something in five minutes. You invested a lot of thought into it. I also think that they end up being really affordable. Most of the recipes in my book will make multiple gifts."

Best ways to package gifts

"Old takeout containers can be great. You can dress them up with a strip of holiday paper, ribbon or some acorns, and that way you can recycle what you already have. Mason jars are another way to go."

Popular this holiday season

"Any of the boozy recipes, like the apple cinnamon bourbon — bourbon is huge. If you want something basic, try the margarita salt. [It] takes five minutes to make and it's cheap."

OLIVIA MORROW
letters@metro.us

PHOTOS: STEVE LEGATO

Holiday recipe

Lucy Baker's Gingersnap Balls

Makes about 30 balls

INGREDIENTS

About 45 store-bought gingersnap cookies, such as Nabisco
1½ cups walnuts
1 cup confectioners' sugar
½ teaspoon ground ginger
2 tablespoons maple syrup, honey, or corn syrup
⅓ cup dark rum

DIRECTIONS

1 Working in batches, put the gingersnaps in the work bowl of a food processor and process until they are finely ground. You should have about 3 cups of crumbs. Transfer 2 cups to a large bowl. Reserve the remaining 1 cup of crumbs. Put the walnuts in the food processor and process until they are finely ground. Add them to the bowl with the 2 cups of gingersnap crumbs. Add the confectioners' sugar and ground ginger and stir until well combined. Stir in the maple syrup and rum. Transfer the mixture to the refrigerator and chill for 30 minutes.

2 Spread the remaining cup of gingersnap crumbs on a plate. Using a tablespoon, scoop out spoonfuls of the mixture and shape them into 1-inch balls. Roll the balls in the gingersnap crumbs. Transfer them to a wax paper-lined baking sheet and chill until they are set, about one hour. Store the balls in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

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Her salads and cocktails are about to get an upgrade. These seed bombs will grow cinnamon basil, lemon mint and lime basil. VisualLingual Exotic Herbs Seed Bombs, $7, www.visualingual.com

Stephanie Amos Speckled Burst Planter, $40, www.leifshop.com

Like a handbag for her plants. Farrahsit Porcelain and Tan Leather Hanging Planter, $45, Farrahsit on www.etsy.com

This watering set by heritage garden brand Haws includes a traditional watering can (in white!) and brass mister. Someone's plants are about to be really happy. Haws Indoor Watering Set, $70, www.gardeners.com

This twine collection includes eight spools in different colors perfect for supporting plants or just, you know, making bows. Nutscene Jute Twine Set, $15, www.williams-sonoma.com

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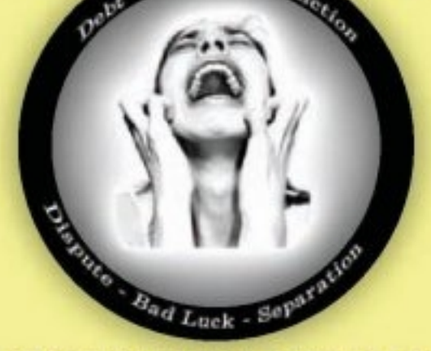

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Letters

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Raising rates on the rich is not the end of the problem

The only mainstream news stories about the upcoming potential economic disaster almost all focus on one thing: raising taxes on the rich. If this tax raise is implemented, is 100 percent successful — meaning its projected maximum revenue stream is achieved — it would fund the federal government for less than a month. The government is pulling in the same amount — and in some months, more than it has for past 20 years. The answer is blatantly obvious; the federal government does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. The national debt is going to sink this nation once the unknown amount is reached when the market finally realizes there is no possible way to pay this back. President Bush spent too much, President Obama called him "unpatriotic" for spending so much, and then he almost reaches Bush's eight-year mark in four. Spending cuts are not even on the table, yet the media is still setting Republicans up for blame if the negotiations fail. It's like living in a parallel universe.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

There's no goodwill in Israeli stance

As a student of Irish history in the famine years, the British government saw the Irish people as less human than they were. By doing this they could take their land, their food, their rights. The Israeli government does the same with the Palestinians. Notice when one Israeli person gets killed it's the end of the world, yet when 300 Palestine people get killed, including children, it's no big deal.

Its obvious that the government in Israel does not want peace with the Palestine people. They never did. If they really wanted to, they could have done it many times over. They want them out so they can have all the land for the Jewish people and will do anything to get it. It's just sad, and its time for all of us to stand up to Israel and do what we know in our hearts what is right.

SEAN CRANE, VIA E-MAIL

"Even if a driver had 100% visibility 100% of the time, cars simply do not have the same maneuverability as bicycles."

CAROL CONRADSON, VIA E-MAIL
RE: "THE UNIVERSAL BLIND SPOT: BICYCLISTS" (METRO, DEC. 11)

Cyclists and drivers alike must obey laws

RE: "THE UNIVERSAL BLIND SPOT: BICYCLISTS" (METRO, DEC. 11) I ride a bike for fun and as transportation. I hate to break it to Liz Papi, but the blame for bicycle/car issues should not fall on the drivers fully. Bicyclists need to drop the "I am better than you" attitude and realize they have to follow traffic rules just like cars. That means stopping at stop signs and lights, yielding for pedestrians in crosswalks and going the correct direction down streets. The road will respect bicyclists when bicyclists respect the road and all that it entails. Until then, the blame needs to be shared.

JOHN W. KELLY III, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Since your sales resistance could be exceptionally low, it might be smart to avoid expensive shops that carry what you can't afford.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Unless you're confronted with some challenging developments, your excellent leadership qualities might never be expressed.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Instead of brooding over something disturbing, it would be best for you to discuss it with someone who usually has the answers.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** There are strong indications that something beneficial is likely to develop for you that would give rise to great hopes. Chances are, it involves someone you like a lot.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Ambition is an admirable trait, as long as you don't corrupt it by stealing someone else's work, especially since you have plenty of talent of your own. Simply do your own thing, and you'll get your due reward.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Even if your views contain elements of wisdom lacking in those of your contemporaries, it'll still take the proper presentation to make them attractive to others. Express yourself logically, not emotionally.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Adjust to unexpected developments instead of allowing your frustration to wipe out your progress. Don't allow anything to stop your momentum.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Certain one-on-one relationships are apt to require as much tolerance and diplomacy as you can muster. Make it a point to allow in others what you want excused in yourself.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Assignments that are a pain-in-the-neck to begin with could be made even more intolerable if you resent having to do them. However, a good attitude will lighten your load considerably.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Primarily because you're likely to be a bit luckier than your competitors, social activities that contain elements of chance will prove to be enjoyable.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It'll be important for you to find a constructive outlet in which to release all of your pent-up energy. If you instead keep all your restlessness bottled up, it'll put you in an irritable mood.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Your imagination will be easily stimulated when you are asked to improve upon the concepts of another. Everyone will marvel at the multitude of suggestions you'll offer.

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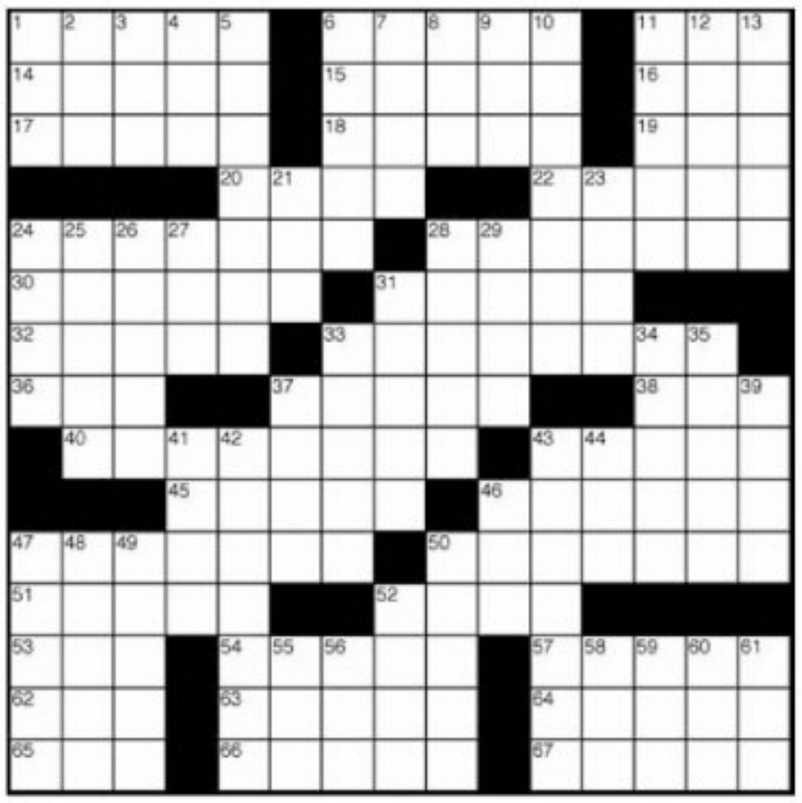
Across
1 Brass or bronze
6 Ham it up
11 Confidant
14 Sluggish marsupial
15 Like the flu
16 "Skip to My —"
17 Rocky Mountain tree
18 Guru's domain
19 Electric bridge
20 Recoil
22 Page or LuPone
24 Shining brilliantly
28 Deceive
30 Up and at 'em
31 Gentleman's gentleman
32 Rudner and Braver
33 Take a tumble (2 wds.)
36 Boathouse gear
37 Furnace ducts
38 In what way
40 Mischief-makers
43 Seeming
45 Jet jockey
46 Got frizzy
47 Torn
50 Kind of lantern
51 Turf grabber
52 Obi-Wan player
53 Dairy unit
54 Opposite of "supra"
57 Paycheck figure
62 Can. province
63 Rules of thumb
64 ATM key
65 Thumbs-up vote
66 Grind one's teeth
67 Grease cutters

Down
1 FBI acronym
2 Spanish article
3 Drink like Rover
4 Flamenco shout
5 Northerners
6 Turn out
7 Fur source
8 California fort
9 "— -Pan" (Clavell novel)
10 Rolled by
11 Continental drifter
12 Large artery
13 Of sound mind
21 Quaint hotel
23 Low voice
24 Vegas game
25 Dickens' — Heep
26 Petrol measure
27 Cookie-selling org.
28 All uncles
29 Woes
31 Boast about
33 Weather warning
34 Ambergris source
35 Muzzles
37 Grind down
39 Roomy
41 Links org.
42 Melodious
43 Brunch orders
44 40-cup brewer
46 Ernesto Guevara
47 "Bones" on the Enterprise
48 Single-handed
49 Frog relatives
50 Lock horns
52 Octopi have eight
55 Miss Piggy's refusal
56 Monastic title
58 Plastic — Band
59 Ms. Hagen
60 One's good name, slangily
61 Grad. class



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7		2						
	9	1			6			
	2						4	
			5			1	6	
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2	8			9				5
1	4	5			2	9		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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3								5
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			4		1			
6	5		8		3		9	4
			5		6			
		8	3	5		4	1	
9								2
	3		7			5		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to Thursday's crossword

Z	E	B	R	A	■	R	I	F	T	■	R	A	P	T
O	G	L	E	D	■	E	D	I	E	■	A	F	R	O
O	R	A	L	S	■	C	E	L	L	■	M	O	O	D
M	E	M	O	■	C	U	M	M	E	R	B	U	N	D
S	T	E	A	M	E	R	■	G	A	L	L	E	Y	■
■	■	■	D	U	E	■	F	O	R	C	E	■	■	■
C	A	G	E	Y	■	K	O	D	A	K	■	P	L	Y
A	C	I	D	■	B	U	X	O	M	■	S	H	O	E
L	E	S	■	P	U	R	E	R	■	R	E	I	G	N
■	■	■	W	I	L	D	S	■	M	O	A	■	■	■
S	O	L	O	N	G	■	■	R	A	T	R	A	C	E
T	H	I	N	K	A	L	O	U	D	■	C	H	E	R
R	A	N	T	■	R	U	B	S	■	S	H	E	A	R
O	R	E	O	■	I	N	I	T	■	T	E	A	S	E
P	E	N	N	■	A	G	E	S	■	A	D	D	E	D

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Final test awaits as Pats host 49ers

New England got past Texans, now await talented Niners ◗ Kaepernick leads multidimensional offense ◗ Game could be won with ground attack

Three storylines to watch this Sunday night as the Patriots tangle with the 49ers (8:20 p.m., NBC):

1 One more test — The Patriots passed their first late-season test against the Texans with flying colors, but things won't get any easier Sunday night against San Francisco. The 49ers are the last true threat to prevent the Patriots from earning a bye in the AFC. It's pretty clear the Pats have the No. 1 seed on their radar, and they'll get a chance to prove it even further Sunday. It'll be New England's offense against San Fran's defense, but the biggest mismatch could be on the sidelines. Not to take anything away from Jim Harbaugh, but he's no Bill Belichick.

2 Grind it out — While the Texans boasted a strong overall defense, they had their issues defending the pass against elite quarterbacks this season — including Tom Brady. But San Francisco has the No. 2 pass defense in the NFL, giving up an average of just 184.7 yards per game. They limited Matthew Stafford (230 yards), Drew Brees (267 yards) and Eli Manning (167 yards) through the air, and will look to do the same against Brady. This could very well be a "ground and pound" game for both sides, with Frank Gore and the Pats' duo of Stevan Ridley and Shane Vereen.

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▶ Kaepernick has three passing touchdowns and five rushing touchdowns this season.

97.5
Colin Kaepernick has a QB rating of 97.5 on the season, with just one interception in 129 throws. He has three total turnovers though, with two fumbles.

3 When it counts — It's safe to say replacing an injured Drew Bledsoe with Tom Brady was the right move. But Harbaugh is still wondering if sticking with Colin Kaepernick over Alex Smith is the right decision in the long run. Kaepernick has been up and down as starter, but is certainly explosive at times. He's a mobile quarterback with a cannon. Expect the Pats' defense to throw different looks at him.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

The cold, hard football facts

A look at the NFL through the eyes of the stat experts at Coldhard football facts.com:

It's all relative: 49ers, Pats best teams in NFL
The 49ers (9-3-1) and Patriots (10-3) do not have the best records in football. But they are the best teams if you measure how well they perform relative to the quality of their competition, according to CHFF Relativity Index.

The Relativity Index Top 10 (measuring points per game)
1. New England — + 15.6
2. San Francisco — +10.5
3. Denver — + 9.9
4. NY Giants — + 9.2
5. Seattle — + 8.7
6. Houston — + 7.7
7. Chicago — + 7.2
8. Baltimore — + 4.6
9. Green Bay — + 4.5
10. Atlanta — + 3.2

FFChamps.com Fantasy Impact Player: Vincent Jackson, WR, Tampa Bay — Jackson abused Philadelphia (six catches, 131 yards, 1 TD) last week. The wide receiver will continue to dish out punishment against a wimpy New Orleans defense that has surrendered 18 touchdowns to wideouts this year. The former Chargers star toasted the Saints for 216 yards and a touchdown back in Week 7. The Buccaneers should be plenty ready for this one, as they are still fighting for a wild-card spot in the NFC at 6-7 overall.

In the news

Hamilton signs
The Angels swooped in and stole the top free-agent hitter on the market for the second straight year on Thursday.

They signed Josh Hamilton to a five-year, $125 million contract — the second-highest annual contract in the majors behind Alex Rodriguez.

He'll likely hit in front of last year's off-season acquisition, Albert Pujols.

Sox lock up Dempster

Pitching was the Red Sox's most glaring need heading into the offseason, and it appears they have finally addressed the issue with the signing of right-hander Ryan Dempster.

The two sides reached an agreement on a two-year, $26.5 million deal, according to reports. He turned down a similar deal from the Royals.

Dempster went 12-8 with a 3.38 ERA in 173 innings last season with the Cubs and Rangers. The 35-year-old is expected to be the third or fourth starter for Boston, with Jon Lester and Clay Buchholz taking up the first two slots.

He was crushed in his first three starts after a mid-season trade to Texas, but was 5-0 with a 1.91 ERA in his next five.

"He'll carve up weaker lineups and will be a positive clubhouse guy," a major league source told WEEI.com. "[But it's] hard to expect much against the deeper lineups, and I don't think [the Sox] do."

MATT BURKE

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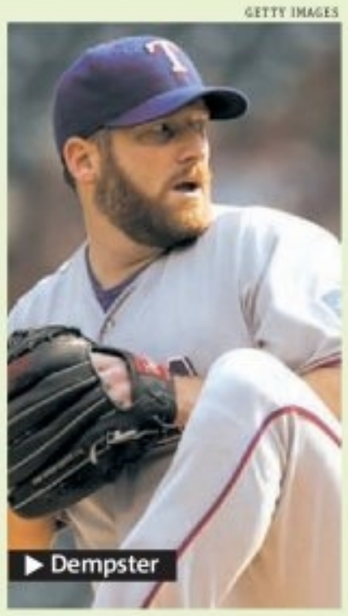

▶ Dempster

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